CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1 1.   An apparatus for load balanced and fault tolerant aggregation and display of information,

2 said apparatus comprising:

3   a first web server receiving a transaction, said transaction comprising a first and second

4 request;

5   a first and second agent server; and

6   a load-balancing module;

7   wherein the first web server assigns the first request to one of said first and second agent

8 servers responsive to said load-balancing module and assigns the second request to one of said

9 first and second agent servers responsive to the load-balancing module.

1 2.   The apparatus of claim 1 further comprising a state server connected to at least one of

2 said first and second agent servers and providing persistent storage for information.

1 3.   The apparatus of claim 2 wherein said state server comprises a relational database.

1 4.   The apparatus of claim 1 further comprising a second web server, wherein one of said

2 first and second agent servers sends a first request to one of said first and second web servers

3 responsive to said load-balancing module and sends a second request to one of said first and

4 second web servers responsive to said load-balancing module.

5 5.   The apparatus of claim 4 wherein said first web server is in communication with said

6 second web server.

1 6.   The apparatus of claim 1 wherein each agent server comprises a dispatcher for

2 instantiating at least one of an assimilation agent and an integration server.

1 7.   The apparatus of claim 1 further comprising a communications module in

2 communications with said first web server, said communications module in communication with

3 a network.

1   8.   A method for load-balanced and fault tolerant aggregation and display of information in

2   an apparatus comprising a web server, a first agent server, a second agent server, and a load-

3   balancing module, said method comprising the steps:

4   (a) receiving, by a web server, a first request;

5   (b) assigning, by said web server, said first request to one of a first agent server and a

6   second agent server responsive to a load-balancing module;

7   (c) receiving, by said web server, a second request; and

8   (d) assigning, by said web server, said second request to one of said first agent server and

9   said second agent server responsive to said load-balancing module.